

# The Cost of Today's Prescriptions: Top 5 Medications Used by State Employees

***Lipitor*** is the prescription drug most taken by members enrolled in the State of Delaware's prescription drug program. Lipitor, used to help lower blood cholesterol in patients who are at risk of getting heart disease or stroke, blocks the body's ability to make cholesterol and is generally prescribed to patients whose cholesterol level is not controlled by diet. Lipitor is a (Tier 2) formulary brand medication on the 2005 Express Scripts Prime Formulary requiring a \$15.00 member copayment for up to a 30-day supply and a \$30.00 member copayment for up to a 90-day supply. The remainder of the cost of each prescription is paid by the State of Delaware.

All detailed dollar amounts in this article are for a one-year period of time. Consider these facts:

<u>Drug Name</u>	<u>Member Copay</u>	<u>State of Delaware's Cost/Rx</u>	<u>Average # of Rx Filled</u>	<u>State of Delaware's Total Cost</u>
Lipitor 10 mg	\$15 or \$30	\$ 93.07	24,797	\$2,307,786
Lipitor 20 mg	dependent	\$143.31	17,027	\$2,440,171
Lipitor 40 mg	upon supply	\$143.94	<u>7,407</u>	<u>\$1,066,174</u>
<b>Total</b>			<b>49,231</b>	<b>\$5,814,131</b>

The second most prescribed drug filled by State of Delaware members is ***Prevacid***. Prevacid prevents the production of acid in the stomach resulting in reduced symptoms and injury to the esophagus or stomach in patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) or ulcers. Prevacid is also a Tier 2 formulary brand medication requiring a member copayment of \$15.00 for up to a 30-day supply or \$30.00 member copayment for a 90-day supply. In *addition* to member copayments, the State of Delaware's cost on average per prescription for Prevacid is referenced below:

<u>Drug Name</u>	<u>State of Delaware's Cost/Rx</u>	<u>Average # of Rx Filled</u>	<u>State of Delaware's Total Cost</u>
Prevacid 30 mg	\$ 203.95	13,816	\$2,817,766

The third most heavily prescribed medication to State of Delaware members is ***Plavix***; the fourth is ***Allegra*** , and the fifth is ***Fosamax*** . Plavix helps prevent blood clots thereby reducing the chance of recurring heart attacks or strokes in patients who already had a heart attack or stroke. Allegra, an antihistamine, reduces allergy symptoms of hay fever and may reduce itching of the skin in patients with chronic itchy skin rashes. Fosamax helps prevent bone loss and increases production of healthy bone in patients with Paget's disease, osteoporosis and other conditions, which place someone at risk from bone loss. As with Lipitor and Prevacid, Plavix, Allegra and Fosamax are Tier 2 formulary brand medications on the Express Scripts 2005 Prime Formulary. In *addition* to member copayments, the State of Delaware's costs on average per prescription for Plavix, Allegra and Fosamax are referenced below:

<b><u>Drug Name</u></b>	<b><u>State of Delaware's Cost/Rx</u></b>	<b><u>Average # of Rx Filled</u></b>	<b><u>State of Delaware's Total Cost</u></b>
Plavix	\$153.42	9,751	\$1,496,026
Allegra	\$ 79.74	14,096	\$1,124,048
Fosamax	\$ 94.17	10,388	\$ 978,257

Prescription copayments have remained constant since implementation of the flat dollar copayment in 2001. The following increase to the 3-tier prescription copayment design will begin on July 1, 2005 as follows:

	<b><u>Current Member Copayment</u></b>	<b><u>Member Copayment Effective July 1, 2005</u></b>
<b><u>Up to a 30 day supply</u></b>		
Tier 1: Generic drug	\$ 7.50	\$ 8.50
Tier 2: Formulary brand drug	\$15.00	\$20.00
Tier 3: Non-Formulary brand drug	\$40.00	\$45.00
<b><u>90 day supply at mail order or from 90-day Participating Retail Pharmacy</u></b>		
Tier 1: Generic drug	\$15.00	\$17.00
Tier 2: Formulary brand drug	\$30.00	\$40.00
Tier 3: Non-Formulary brand drug	\$70.00	\$90.00

Want more information on the total cost of prescriptions or have questions? Contact Express Scripts customer service department at 1-800-513-9502.

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